

In UK for first foreign trip, Biden to announce vaccine plan

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and
AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

MILDENHALL, England (AP)

— Embarking on the first overseas trip of his term, President Joe Biden is eager to reassert the United States on the world stage, steadying European allies deeply shaken by his predecessor and pushing democracy as the only bulwark to rising forces of authoritarianism.

Biden has set the stakes for his eight-day trip in sweeping terms, believing the West must publicly demonstrate it can compete economically with China as the world emerges from the coronavirus pandemic. Shortly before arriving at Royal Air Force Mildenhall,

where Biden was to speak to U.S. troops, people briefed on the matter confirmed that the Biden administration had brokered an agreement with Pfizer to purchase 500 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to be donated to 92 lower income countries and the African Union over the next year. Two hundred million doses — enough to fully protect 100 million people — will be shared this year according to two people briefed on the matter, with the balance to be donated in the first half of 2022. National security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Wednesday on Air Force One that Biden was committed to sharing vaccines because it was in the pub-



U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden wave as they arrive aboard Air Force One at RAF Mildenhall, England, ahead of the G7 summit in Cornwall, Wednesday June 9, 2021.

Associated Press

lic health and strategic interests of the U.S. As Biden embarks on his first foreign trip, he is aiming to show "that democracies are

the countries that can best deliver solutions for people everywhere."

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In UK for first foreign trip, Biden to announce vaccine plan

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"As he said in his joint session (address), we were the 'arsenal of democracy' in World War II," Sullivan said. "We're going to be the 'arsenal of vaccines' over this next period to help end the pandemic."

Before leaving Washington, Biden told reporters the trip is about making clear to the leaders of China and Russia that the United States and Europe "are tight."

Building toward his trip-ending summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Biden will aim to reassure European capitals that the United States can once again be counted on as a dependable partner to thwart Moscow's aggression both on their eastern front and their internet battlefields.

The trip will be far more about messaging than specific actions or deals. And the paramount priority for Biden is to convince the world that his Democratic administration is not just a fleeting deviation in the trajectory of an American foreign policy that many allies fear irrevocably drifted toward a more transactional outlook under former President Donald Trump.

"The trip, at its core, will advance the fundamental thrust of Joe Biden's foreign policy," said national security adviser Jake Sullivan, "to rally the world's democracies to tackle the great challenges of our time."

Biden's to-do list is ambitious.

In their face-to-face sit-down in Geneva, Biden wants to privately pressure Putin to end myriad provocations, including cybersecurity attacks on American businesses by Russian-based hackers, the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and repeated overt and covert efforts by the Kremlin to interfere in U.S. elections.

Biden is also looking to rally allies on their COVID-19 response and to urge them to coalesce around a strategy to check emerging economic and national security competitor China



Air Force One, carrying U.S. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden comes into land at RAF Mildenhall, near Bury St Edmunds, in eastern England, Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Associated Press

even as the U.S. expresses concern about Europe's economic links to Moscow. Biden also wants to nudge outlying allies, including Australia, to make more aggressive commitments to the worldwide effort to curb global warming.

The week-plus journey is a big moment for Biden, who traveled the world for decades as vice president and as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and will now step off Air Force One onto international soil as commander in chief. He will face world leaders still grappling with the virus and rattled by four years of Trump's inward-looking foreign policy and moves that strained long-time alliances as the Republican former president made overtures to strongmen.

"In this moment of global uncertainty, as the world still grapples with a once-in-a-century pandemic," Biden wrote in a Washington Post op-ed previewing his diplomatic efforts, "this trip is about realizing America's renewed commitment to our allies and partners, and demonstrating the capacity of democracies to both meet the challenges and deter the threats of this new age."

The president first travels to Britain for a summit of the Group of Seven leaders and then Brussels for a NATO summit and a meet-

ing with the heads of the European Union. It comes at a moment when Europeans have diminished expectations for what they can expect of U.S. leadership on the foreign stage.

Central and Eastern Europeans are desperately hoping to bind the U.S. more tightly to their security. Germany is looking to see the U.S. troop presence maintained there so it doesn't need to build up its own. France, meanwhile, has taken the tack that the U.S. can't be trusted as it once was and that the European Union must pursue greater strategic autonomy going forward.

"I think the concern is real that the Trumpian tendencies in the U.S. could return full bore in the midterms or in the next presidential election," said Alexander Vershbow, a former U.S. diplomat and once deputy secretary general of NATO. The sequencing of the trip is deliberate: Biden consulting with Western European allies for much of a week as a show of unity before his summit with Putin.

His first stop late Wednesday will be an address to U.S. troops stationed in Britain, and the next day he sits down with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The two men will meet a day ahead of the G-7 summit to be held above the craggy cliffs of Cornwall overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

The most tactile of politicians, Biden has grown frustrated by the diplomacy-via-Zoom dynamics of the pandemic and has relished the ability to again have face-to-face meetings that allow him to size up and connect with world leaders. While Biden himself is a veteran statesman, many of the world leaders he will see in England, including Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron, took office after Biden left the vice presidency. Another, Germany's Angela Merkel, will leave office later this year.

There are several potential areas of tension. On climate change, the U.S. is aiming to regain its credibility after Trump pulled the country back from the fight against global warming. Biden could also feel pressure on trade, an issue to which he's yet to give much attention. And with the United States well supplied with COVID-19 vaccines yet struggling to persuade some of its own citizens to use it, leaders whose inoculation campaigns have been slower will surely pressure Biden to share more surplus around the globe.

Another central focus will be China. Biden and the other G-7 leaders will announce an infrastructure financing program for developing countries that is meant to compete directly

with Beijing's Belt-and-Road Initiative. But not every European power has viewed China in as harsh a light as Biden, who has painted the rivalry with the techno-security state as the defining competition for the 21st century.

The European Union has avoided taking as strong a stance on Beijing's crack-down on Hong Kong's democracy movement or treatment of Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in the western Xinjiang province as the Biden administration may like. But there are signs that Europe is willing to put greater scrutiny on Beijing.

The EU in March announced sanctions targeting four Chinese officials involved with human rights abuses in Xinjiang. Beijing, in turn, responded by imposing sanctions on several members of the European Parliament and other Europeans critical of the Chinese Communist Party.

Biden is also scheduled to meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan while in Brussels, a face-to-face meeting between two leaders who have had many fraught moments in their relationship over the years.

Biden waited until April to call Erdogan for the first time as president. In that call, he informed the Turkish leader that he would formally recognize that the systematic killings and deportations of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces in the early 20th century were "genocide" — using a term for the atrocities that his White House predecessors had avoided for decades over concerns of alienating Turkey.

The trip finale will be Biden's meeting with Putin.

Biden has taken a very different approach to Russia than Trump's friendly outreach. Their sole summit, held in July 2018 in Helsinki, was marked by Trump's refusal to side with U.S. intelligence agencies over Putin's denials of Russian interference in the election two years earlier. □

U.S. drops Trump order targeting TikTok, plans its own review

By **MATT O'BRIEN, ERIC TUCKER and TALI ARBEL**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House dropped Trump-era executive orders intended to ban the popular apps TikTok and WeChat and will conduct its own review aimed at identifying national security risks with software applications tied to China, officials said Wednesday.

A new executive order directs the Commerce Department to undertake what officials describe as an "evidence-based" analysis of transactions involving apps that are manufactured or supplied or controlled by China. Officials are particularly concerned about apps that collect users' personal data or have connections to Chinese military or intelligence activities.

In revoking some of President Donald Trump's blanket-style orders against Chinese tech companies and replacing them with a narrower approach, the Biden administration has not actually weighed in yet on whether TikTok and other apps pose a danger to Americans.

But a senior administration official said Wednesday that the Trump actions weren't "always implemented in the soundest fashion" and the aim of the



Icons for the smartphone apps TikTok and WeChat are seen on a smartphone screen in Beijing, in a Friday, Aug. 7, 2020 file photo.

review is to set up clear criteria to evaluate specific data security and privacy risks for each app. He said that could lead to a range of potential future actions on an app-by-app basis. "We want to take a tailored, tough approach here," he said.

The department will also make recommendations on how to further protect Americans' genetic and personal health information, and will address the risks of certain software apps connected to China or other adversaries, according to senior adminis-

tration officials.

TikTok on Wednesday declined to comment. WeChat did not respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration's attempted bans didn't hold up legally as courts blocked them, and also "ran up against this critique that they were mimicking China's Great Firewall," said Samm Sacks, a fellow at Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center. "What the Biden administration wants to do is maintain an open, secure internet that doesn't take a page from Beijing's playbook, while

addressing legitimate risk." The Biden administration's move reflects ongoing concern that Americans' personal data could be exposed by popular apps tied to China, a chief U.S. economic and political rival. The White House and Congress have both taken action to address Beijing's technological advancement. The Biden administration last week expanded a Trump-era list of Chinese companies that Americans can't invest in because of purported links to the Chinese military and surveillance. Companies on the

list include China's state-owned telecommunications companies, telecom equipment maker Huawei and Chinese oil company China National Offshore Oil Corp.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed a bill that aims to boost U.S. semiconductor production and the development of artificial intelligence and other technology in the face of growing international competition. The bill would also ban the federal government's use of Chinese-made drones.

The new executive order should lead to a framework for protecting Americans' data from China, rather than targeting specific companies, and could pressure Congress to enact a data-security law in the years ahead, said Paul Triolo, a tech policy expert at the Eurasia Group consultancy.

Courts had blocked the Trump administration's efforts last year to ban TikTok, a video app widely popular with young people, and messaging service WeChat, but a national-security review of TikTok by a government group called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, is ongoing. CFIUS had set deadlines for TikTok to divest its U.S. operations, but such a sale never happened. □

Associated Press

DEA: Companies had 'systematic failure' in monitoring pills

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)

— A retired high-ranking official with the Drug Enforcement Administration has testified that three large opioid distributors had a "systematic failure" in monitoring suspicious pill orders. Joe Rannazzisi, former head of the Office of Diversion Control for the DEA from 2006 to 2015, testified Tuesday in Charleston in a landmark civil case brought by Cabell County and the city of Huntington that accuses AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. of fueling the U.S. opioid epidemic.

The companies say poor communication and pill

quotas set by federal agents are to blame, along with a rise in prescriptions written by doctors.

Rannazzisi testified that the defendants didn't report suspicious orders to the DEA due to a failure with their monitoring systems. The Herald-Dispatch reported. He said the DEA asked the companies in 2005 to rein in their distribution practices. A follow-up review of pill shipping data found the flow of pills was not reduced.

He testified that McKesson later told the DEA that its suspicious-pill monitoring system was not picking up generic drugs in the hydro-

codone class.

The failures led to suspension orders being issued against McKesson in 2006, AmerisourceBergen in 2007 and Cardinal Health in 2007 and 2012, Rannazzisi testified.

Rannazzisi did not personally review distributors' monitoring systems, participate in on-site visits or speak to any distributors but McKesson in 2005, McKesson attorney Paul Schmidt said.

Rannazzisi also testified that he did not know of any investigations showing the defendants had shipped orders they believed were suspicious. □



This June 17, 2019, file photo shows 5-mg pills of Oxycodone.

Associated Press

Oklahoma prison inmates to begin receiving computer tablets

By SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Inmates at an Oklahoma prison began receiving special computer tablets this week, as part of a Department of Corrections plan to provide secure tablets to everyone incarcerated in state prisons.

The devices, specially designed by prisons communications company Securus Technologies, will include free content such as prison policies, access to a law library, some books and educational and self-help materials. Inmates can also pay to receive music, movies, games and television programs, as well as to send and receive messages, including video messages, to and from their families. The tablets do not have unrestricted access to the internet.

Usually, inmates wanting to receive educational or vocational training must be escorted to a classroom or program location. But inmates can now receive those services directly on the tablet, said Mike Carpenter, chief of technical services and operations at the Corrections Department.

"The education and programming, that's huge for



In a photo provided by the North Fork Correctional Center in Sayre, Oklahoma on Tuesday, June 9, 2021, inmate Byron Robinson works on a new Securus tablet, which are being provided for free to Oklahoma inmates as part of a new program by the Department of Corrections.

Associated Press

us," Carpenter said.

On Tuesday, North Fork Correctional Center inmate Byron Robinson, who has been incarcerated since 2005 — the same year YouTube was founded — said the tablet was totally new to him.

"I've never even touched one of these things until today," Robinson said. "It's mindboggling, really, how much this thing can do."

Similar programs allowing inmates to access secure

tablets have been rolled out in other states, including Arizona, Connecticut and Utah, but Oklahoma is one of the first in the nation to combine the company's latest tablet and operating system.

"It has been phenomenal," Hedrick said.

Besides helping to keep inmates pacified, Hedrick said the jail scans incoming letters and photographs to an inmate's tablet, reducing the chance for contra-

band to come into the facility and allowing inmates to have access to more personal photographs.

"Before you had rules on how many photos they could have in their cell, how many magazines," he said. "Now that doesn't happen. They can have as many as they want."

There are some drawbacks to providing inmates with tablets. According to a 2019 report from the Prison Policy Initiative, the "free"

tablets frequently charge users above-market prices for services.

Oklahoma's contract with the company allows a 25-cent charge for emails and 75 cents for outbound video messages. Music can cost up to \$1.99 per song or \$14.99 per album, while the cost for one television episode can range from \$1.70 to \$2.28.

Some 21,000 inmates are currently incarcerated by the state, making the plan potentially very lucrative for Securus.

The Department of Corrections also benefits financially from the arrangement, receiving \$3.5 million annually from the communications company for the first five years of the contract, and \$3.75 million for the next five years.

"Our recent analysis of these contracts suggests that they actually put the interests of incarcerated people last, prioritizing cost savings and the provider's bottom line," the report said.

Sierra Kiplinger, who was released from prison in April, said that while inmates are excited about the new technology, she expressed concern about how much inmates have to pay to utilize the services. □

Judge appoints ex-judge to oversee Giuliani devices' review



In this Sept. 20, 2018, file photo, former federal judge Barbara Jones address a news conference at the offices of the New York Archdiocese in New York.

Associated Press

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former federal judge was formally appointed Wednesday to

ensure attorney-client privilege is protected in the examination of multiple electronic devices seized from Rudy Giuliani.

U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken in Manhattan appointed Barbara Jones as "special master" after the late-April raids on ex-President Donald Trump's former personal attorney.

She's already familiar with the job, having done the same thing three years ago after FBI raids on Michael Cohen, another one of Trump's former personal attorneys.

Cohen eventually pleaded guilty to breaking campaign finance laws and other charges. He spent about a year of a three-year prison sentence behind bars before the spread of the coronavirus in the nation's prisons led to his release to home de-

tention. Investigators are probing Giuliani's interactions with Ukrainian figures to see if he violated a law governing lobbying on behalf of foreign countries or entities.

The Republican and former mayor of New York City has not been charged with a crime. He has said all of his activities in Ukraine were conducted on behalf of Trump.

At the time, Giuliani was leading a campaign to press Ukraine for an investigation into Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, before Biden was elected president.

Trump's efforts to press Ukraine for an investigation of the Bidens led the

House to impeach Trump, though he was acquitted by the Senate.

Prosecutors say they have successfully downloaded 11 electronic devices belonging to Giuliani and returned them to him. They say seven more devices belonging to Giuliani and others at his firm, Giuliani Partners LLC, will require more time to unlock because they lack a passcode.

A cell phone has also been seized from Washington lawyer Victoria Toensing, a former federal prosecutor and ally of Giuliani and Trump. Her law firm has said she was told she was not a target of the investigation. □

EU warns of retaliation as post-Brexit talks with U.K. stall

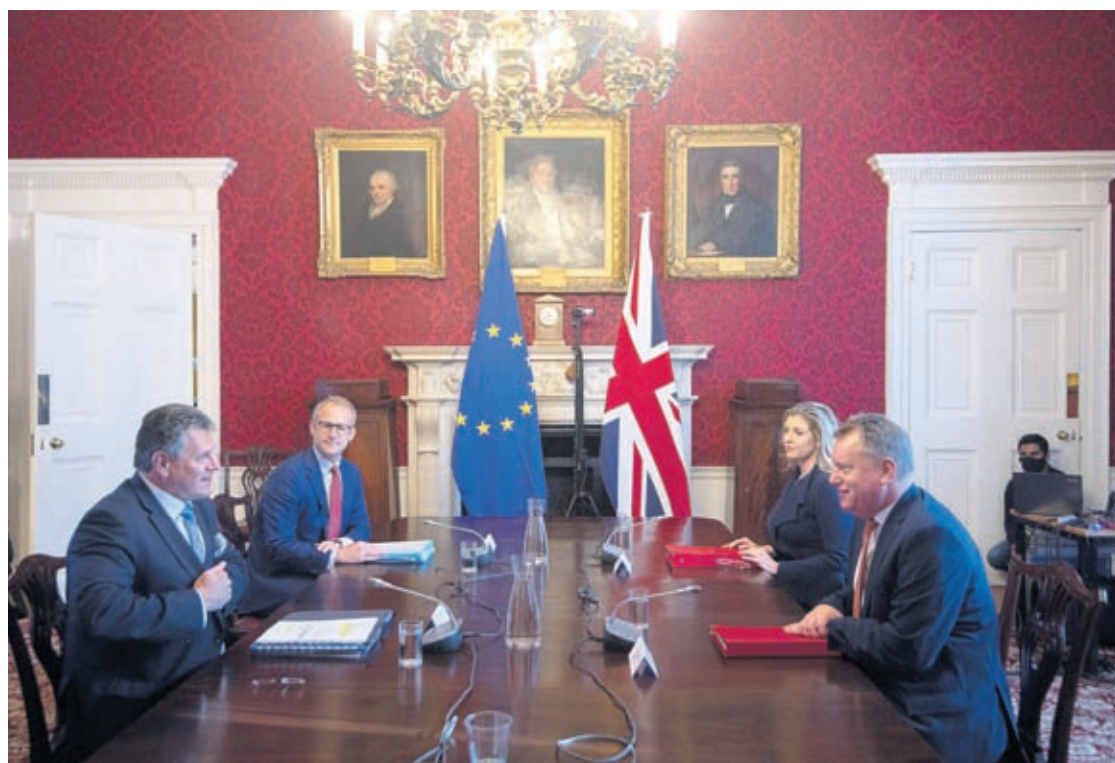
By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A top European Union official said Wednesday that Britain could face retaliatory tariffs or other sanctions after talks failed to resolve an increasingly heated dispute over implementation of their post-Brexit trade deal in Northern Ireland. Maros Sefcovic, the EU's chief negotiator, said the relationship between the two sides had reached a "cross-roads" amid the U.K.'s continued failure to live up to its obligations under the Brexit agreement.

"Trust, which should be at the heart of every partnership, needs to be restored," Sefcovic told reporters after the talks. "That is the EU approach and the EU preference. If the U.K. were to take further unilateral action over the coming weeks, the EU will not be shy in reacting swiftly, firmly and resolutely to ensure that the U.K. abides by its international law obligations."

Sefcovic met with his British counterpart, David Frost, amid rising tensions over provisions of the Brexit deal that essentially created a regulatory border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom. That angered many pro-



Britain's Minister for the Cabinet Office of the United Kingdom, David Frost, right, speaks to his EU counterpart Maros Sefcovic, during a meeting, in London, Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Associated Press

British residents of the territory who reject anything that threatens their status as part of the U.K.

The so-called Northern Ireland protocol was designed to protect the peace process there by ensuring that trade with the Republic of Ireland continued to flow freely after Britain left the EU. To do so, the protocol required Britain to conduct regulatory checks on some goods shipped to the region from other parts of the U.K.

Britain earlier this year uni-

laterally delayed some of those inspections, saying it needed more time to put systems in place to carry out the required checks. The EU threatened legal action over what it saw as a breach of Britain's international obligations. Now the U.K. government is considering further delays and the EU is ramping up its response.

Frost called for "pragmatic solutions" to bridge the divide. "What the EU is insisting on is we should operate the protocol in an ex-

tremely purist way," Frost said separately. "The reality is that it's a very balanced document that's designed to support the peace process and deal with the very sensitive politics in Northern Ireland." Sefcovic said the bloc was ready to compromise. For example, he said, the EU has offered to amend the rules to ensure they don't slow the delivery of medicines and to make it easier to send guide dogs and used cars to Northern Ireland. The bloc has also of-

fered a deal that would do away with most checks if Britain agreed to align its rules on animal and plant health with EU regulations. Such an arrangement, similar to the EU's trade deal with Switzerland, could be implemented on a temporary basis to give Britain more time to come up with a permanent solution, Sefcovic said.

But he also said the EU was growing frustrated as Britain delays the implementation of rules it agreed to 18 months ago.

"Our patience, really, is growing very, very thin," Sefcovic said.

Behind the dispute is the unique situation of Northern Ireland, where more than 3,000 people were killed during three decades of violence between those who support unification with the Republic of Ireland and those who seek to maintain ties to the U.K. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to region, was underpinned by the fact that both the U.K. and Ireland were members of the EU. That made it possible for trade to flow freely between Ireland and Northern Ireland, stimulating economic growth and creating jobs on both sides of the border. □

EU report: Illicit drug sales moved online during lockdowns

MADRID (AP) — Illegal drug production on European soil increased during the coronavirus pandemic last year as lockdowns helped move drug sales from streets to encrypted online platforms, according to an analysis of continental drug trends released Wednesday.

The 2021 European Drug Report says criminal groups also adapted to travel restrictions and border closures by relying less on human couriers and turning instead to shipping containers and commercial supply chains to smuggle illicit substances.

The report is produced annually by the Europe-

an Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction drawing data from the Eu-

ropean Union's 27 member countries, Turkey and Norway.



Packets containing cocaine which was hidden in boxes of bananas are seen at Malta Freeport, an international transshipment hub on Malta's southeastern tip, after it was seized by Customs Malta, late Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Associated Press

Its authors said that while strict stay-at-home orders in most countries disrupted street drug sales, the market moved to encrypted messaging and social media platforms for negotiating purchases and to home delivery services for distribution.

"This draws attention to whether a long-term impact of the pandemic could be the further digitalization of drug markets," the EMCDDA report states.

There were 46 new drugs detected in 2020 alone, including new synthetic cannabinoids and opioids, the report said.

European Commissioner

for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson said "the highly pure and potent substances" found in the surveyed countries were a cause of special concern.

Illegal drug usage in general, she warned, carries environmental, health and security risks for the EU.

The issue "corrupts the fabric of our society, fueling violence and risking the health and security of our citizens," Johansson said in a statement.

The EMCDDA described the European drug market as "dynamic and adaptive," as well as "resilient to COVID-19 restrictions," with patterns of drug use "increasingly complex." □

U.N. expert says Myanmar attacks risk humanitarian tragedy

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — At least one-quarter of the people in Myanmar's smallest state have been forced to flee their homes because of combat with the military junta that seized power in February, raising fears of a possible humanitarian tragedy including thousands of civilian deaths, a U.N. expert said Wednesday.

The U.N. special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, called for international pressure on the junta to deprive it of the resources needed "to continue these brutal attacks on the people of Myanmar."

"Mass deaths from starvation, disease and exposure could occur in Kayah state after many of the 100,000 forced to flee into forests from junta bombs are now cut off from food, water and medicine by the junta," he said in remarks posted on Twitter.

The U.N.'s office in Myanmar said in a statement Tuesday that people in Kayah are in urgent need of food, water, shelter, fuel and healthcare, and that "this crisis could push people across international borders seeking safety, as



In this Dec. 11, 2019, file photo, Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi waits to address judges of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

already seen in other parts of the country." Villagers from the Karen minority south of Kayah fled to Thailand in March and April when they came under attack by Myanmar's military. The military, which ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, has faced widespread opposition to its rule, initially by massive nonviolent protests. After soldiers and police used deadly force to crush the peaceful demon-

strations, a low-level armed insurrection has emerged in both the cities and countryside.

According to Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, more than 850 protesters and bystanders have been killed in the junta's crackdown, though the government puts the death toll at about a third of that.

There has been fierce fighting in Kayah since May 21, when government forces

moved into areas controlled by the state's dominant political organization, the Karen National Progressive Party, and its armed wing, the Karen National Army. The KNPP is one of about a dozen armed ethnic organizations that have been battling for decades for greater autonomy from the central government.

Andrews said he has received "credible reports of a major shortage of safe drinking water, severe di-

arrhea outbreaks, and a lack of adequate shelter" among Kayah's displaced people. He said there were reports that the military had set up blockades that are keeping aid from reaching them.

An official for the Karen Nationalities Defense Force, a recently formed group fighting against the government, confirmed that there was an urgent need among the displaced people for protection during the current rainy season and for medicine.

The spokesman, who was contacted by phone from Thailand and declined to give his name for safety reasons, said there was not much fighting Wednesday, though occasional sounds of government heavy weapons could be heard.

The defense force is an outgrowth of the protest movement that began against military rule after the February takeover. The units were formed locally and now sometimes operate at the state level. They are loosely affiliated with an alternative National Unity Government established by elected lawmakers who were denied their seats in Parliament by the army coup. □

Associated Press

Japan, Australia share China concerns, augment defense ties

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and Australia on Wednesday shared concern about

China's increasingly assertive actions in regional seas and expressed strong objections to "coercive or destabilizing" behavior.



Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, second right, and Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, right, attend a video conference with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, left on screen, and Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton, right on screen, at Foreign Ministry in Tokyo during their two-plus-two ministerial meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2021, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Foreign and defense ministers from the two countries agreed in the online talks to strengthen their security ties as China presses its claims to contested areas in the Asia-Pacific region. Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters after the talks that the officials shared their concerns about China's activity in the East and South China Seas as a challenge to the international community. Motegi was joined by Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi and their Australian counterparts, Marise Payne and Peter Dutton. Japan regularly protests to China over its coast guard presence near the Japanese-controlled Senkaku

islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu. Chinese vessels routinely violate Japanese territorial waters around the islands, sometimes threatening fishing boats, Japanese officials say.

Japan and China are also in dispute over the development of undersea resources in the area.

"We reinforce our strong opposition to any destabilizing or coercive unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tension in the East China Sea," Japan and Australia said in a joint statement released after the talks. The behavior "undermines the rules-based international order," they said.

In the South China Sea,

China's sweeping territorial claims have clashed with those of its neighbors, which accuse Beijing of militarizing one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

The joint statement expressed "serious concerns about the recent negative developments and serious incidents in the South China Sea, including continuing militarization of disputed features, dangerous use of coast guard vessels and 'maritime militia,' and efforts to disrupt other countries' resources exploitation activities."

"We reaffirmed our strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo" by China, Motegi said. □

Rights group: Colombian police cause deaths of 20 protesters

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ**

Associated Press

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia (AP) — An international monitoring group on Wednesday accused police officers in Colombia of responsibility for the deaths of 20 people and other violent actions against protesters during recent civil unrest, including sexual abuse, beatings and arbitrary detentions.

Human Rights Watch said in a report said it has "credible evidence" indicating police killed at least 16 protesters or bystanders with "live ammunition fired from firearms," while three other people died when police used non-lethal weapons. The report said another person died after being beaten repeatedly.

"These brutal abuses are not isolated incidents by rogue officers, but rather the result of systemic shortcomings of the Colombian police," said José Miguel Vivanco, the group's director for the Americas. "Comprehensive reform that clearly separates the police from the military and ensures adequate oversight and accountability is needed to ensure that these violations don't occur again."



Police clash with anti-government demonstrators protesting against the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifying soccer match between Argentina and Colombia in Barranquilla, Colombia, Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

The report presents a panorama of more widespread violence than what Colombian authorities have acknowledged. It says Human Rights Watch has received "credible information" reporting a total of 68 deaths during the protests, 34 of which it was able to confirm, including two police officers.

Colombia's government has reported 18 deaths related to the protests and says an additional nine

are under investigation. The country's human rights ombudsman, meanwhile, reported late Monday that it had confirmed 58 deaths related to the protests.

Thousands of Colombians have turned out across the country for mostly peaceful protests against the administration of President Iván Duque. The protests started over proposed tax increases on public services, fuel, wages and pensions, but it has morphed into a gen-

eral demand for the government to do more for the most vulnerable in society, such as Indigenous and Afro Latino people.

The administration withdrew the tax proposal just days after the protests began, but the unrest has continued and grown as reports emerged of police violence, deaths and disappearances.

Human Rights Watch said its investigation into the police response to the nationwide

protests that began April 28 found that the majority of fatal victims suffered injuries to vital organs, including head and chest, which experts said "are consistent with being caused with the intent to kill."

The report says that among those killed by police was Kevin Agudelo, who died during a peaceful demonstration May 3 in Cali, a city in southwestern Colombia that has been the epicenter of the protests. Witnesses said anti-riot police fired flash bang cartridges and teargas when demonstrators blocked cars at a traffic circle, prompting several demonstrators to throw rocks.

"One witness said he heard shots that sounded like live ammunition," the report says. "He said that Agudelo, who had been hiding behind a post, then ran toward him along with another protester."

The witness said he saw a police officer shoot Agudelo from a short distance. The other protester was also injured, he said. Human Rights Watch reviewed three videos that appear consistent with the witnesses' accounts, in which Agudelo is seen lying next to the injured protester". □

Associated Press

Thousands return home in east Congo after volcano eruption

By **JUSTIN KABUMBA**

KATUMWA

Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Thousands of people are returning to Goma and a surrounding region in eastern Congo hoping to find their homes still intact weeks after a volcano erupted, but fearing the worst.

The eruption on May 22 of Mount Nyiragongo forced tens of thousands of people to flee with no warning as lava flowed through their communities.

More residents living on the outskirts of the North Kivu provincial capital were forced to evacuate again a week later when

fears rose there would be another eruption. Authorities sent buses to take a number of people to safety in the town of Sake and other places in the days that followed.

But as people now start the journey home, they are worried about what awaits them and what help they will get.

"We had evacuated and the people stole everything we owned," said Matuso Sumbuo, from Kihisi, in the outskirts of Goma. She complained that authorities have promised aid but said that they have not received any help yet.

"We, who lived from day to day with the small busi-

nesses, how we will live now?" she said before boarding a bus with her family to return home.

The government of Nord Kivu said that those who lost their houses will remain in shelters in different regions but the rest can go back to their houses.

The situation in Sake as well as in other towns receiving those displaced by the eruption was challenging.

"Here we were living on our own because since we arrived, we only received food once from WFP (the World Food Program), but it was not enough" said Esperance Suzane, who carried her belongs in a bag as she prepared to return



In this Sunday, May 23, 2021 file photo, residents check the damages caused by lava from the overnight eruption of Mount Nyiragongo, seen in background, in Buhene, on the outskirts of Goma, Congo.

Associated Press

home. The last eruption of Mount Nyiragongo, one of the world's most active volcanoes, was in 2002, leaving hundreds dead. The lava coated the air-

port runways and also left more than 100,000 homeless in the aftermath. The volcano also erupted in 1977, killing more than 600 people. □

LOCAL



University of Aruba publishes it 2020 Annual Report

ORANJESTAD - The University of Aruba is pleased to present its certified Annual Report to the Minister of Education Dr. Armando Lampe. The President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Herry Koolman, handed the Annual Report to the Minister last week Thursday, May 27 and thanked the University's staff for their professional and hard work to complete all activities, including the audit on a timely manner enabling the University to submit the annual report as prescribed by law.

The Annual Report includes an overview of the past year's most important developments, achievements and events as well as information on the research outputs and publications. The annual report also includes the financial statements and an independent auditor's report.



The year 2020 was an extraordinary year worldwide and delivered specific challenges to Aruba and its education institutions. It was also a year of accelerated innovations and

digitalization. The University invites everyone to visit her website and read more about these developments. The University of Aruba recognizes and endorses the

importance of publishing its annual report and financial statements to promote transparency and alignment with good governance principles in Aruba and to continue building

trust in public and semi-public institutions of Aruba.

The 2020 report is available on the University's website <http://www.ua.aw/annual-reports>. □

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Harbour House Aruba: 80 % sold, construction in final phase: you are invited to come and have a look!

ORANJESTAD — Boosting a buyers confidence comes with a strong sales team, an established company name and experience. The Perret Group are the owners of among others Harbour House Aruba and they live up to the expectation. With 80 % of the condominiums sold in their residence they can do nothing more but be content. Take a look at this cool site reflecting best of two worlds: beach and city.

The residence consists of 94 units in the former 7-level Marazul building at the historical location of Paardenbaai. Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, Also, the organization is amazing. We

are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbor of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 30.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

City elegance combined with tropical tranquility is what you get here. The panoramas are breath-taking. Can you imagine yourself with your favorite cup of joe, gazing out over the ocean while the city of Oranjestad is awakening? The new trend is to live tinier but comfy and Harbour House meets this market demand with the perfect product. Everything is close, you are centrally located, just a step away from the beach though right in the main area in Oranjestad. You have history to tell and you are within walking distance to all Oranjestad has to offer. What else do you need? For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>



AHATA Environmental Committee cleans North Coast beaches on World Environment Day



ORANJESTAD – To honor World Environment Day, the AHATA Environmental Committee held a North Coast beach clean-up on Saturday. Committee members participated with family and coworkers, with assistance of Rotaract Club and Interact Club. The clean-up lasted two hours and took place at Boca Grandi and Grape Field Beach. The 45 volunteers split into smaller teams and began from opposite sides of the beach and worked their way to the first entrance of Boca Grandi. Plastics were among the most often detected items in the 50 bags

gathered. As a token of appreciation for their efforts, volunteers received a certificate of participation from AHATA.

AHATA Environmental Committee consists of active and experienced volunteers from member companies such as hotels, public and private organizations, and foundations that work together to improve environmental awareness and promote the four R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Repurpose. With marine waste being a big issue, particularly on our island, this



year's World Environment Day theme, "Ecosystem Restoration," gave a perfect opportunity for the committee to contribute to marine ecosystem restoration efforts. It is critical that we recognize and cherish our fragile ecosystems and take preventative measures to aid in the recovery of many species on the verge of extinction. By keeping our beaches clean, we give the surrounding coastal and aquatic species a chance to recover. □

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — as from now on two interesting museums on Aruba are open to the public again. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you the two locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and con-

sists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in

downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex



for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of

approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



ProPublica: Many of the uber-rich pay next to no income tax

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
and **MARCY GORDON**
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rich really are different from you and me: They're better at dodging the tax collector.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos paid no income tax in 2007 and 2011. Tesla founder Elon Musk's income tax bill was zero in 2018. And financier George Soros went three straight years without paying federal income tax, according to a report Tuesday from the nonprofit investigative journalism organization ProPublica.

Overall, the richest 25 Americans pay less in tax — an average of 15.8% of adjusted gross income — than many ordinary workers do, once you include taxes for Social Security and Medicare, ProPublica found. Its findings are likely to heighten a national debate over the vast and widening inequality between the very wealthiest Americans and everyone else.

An anonymous source delivered to ProPublica reams of Internal Revenue Service data on the country's wealthiest people, including Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch and Mark Zuckerberg. ProPublica compared the tax data it received with information available from other sources. It reported that "in every instance we were able to check — involving tax filings by more than 50 separate people — the details provided to ProPublica matched the information from other sources."

Using perfectly legal tax strategies, many of the uber-rich are able to shrink their federal tax bills to nothing or close to it.

A spokesman for Soros, who has supported higher taxes on the rich, told ProPublica that the billionaire had lost money on his investments from 2016 to 2018 and so did not owe federal income tax for those years. Musk responded to ProPublica's initial request for comment with a punctuation mark — "?" — and did not answer detailed follow-up questions.



In this May 5, 2019, file photo Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, speaks during a game of bridge following the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

The federal tax code is meant to be progressive — that is, the rich pay a steadily higher tax rate on their income as it rises. And ProPublica found, in fact, that people earning between \$2 million and \$5 million a year paid an average of 27.5%, the highest of any group of taxpayers.

Above \$5 million in income, though, tax rates fell: The top .001% of taxpayers — 1,400 people who reported income above \$69 million — paid 23%. And the 25 very richest people paid still less.

The wealthy can reduce their tax bills through the use of charitable donations or by avoiding wage income (which can be taxed at up to 37%) and benefiting instead mainly from investment income (usually taxed at 20%).

President Joe Biden, in seeking revenue to finance his spending plans, has proposed higher taxes on the wealthy. Biden wants to raise the top tax rate to 39.6% for people earning \$400,000 a year or more in taxable income, estimated to be fewer than 2% of U.S. households. The top tax rate that workers pay on salaries and wages now is 37%.

Biden is proposing to nearly double the tax rate that

high-earning Americans pay on profits from stocks and other investments. In addition, under his proposals, inherited capital gains would no longer be tax-free.

The president, whose proposals must be approved by Congress, would also raise taxes on corporations, which would affect wealthy investors who own corporate stocks.

ProPublica reported that the tax bills of the rich are especially low when compared with their soaring wealth — the value of their investment portfolios, real estate and other assets. People don't have to pay tax on an increase in their wealth until they cash in and, say, sell their stock or home and realize the gains. Using calculations by Forbes magazine, ProPublica noted that the wealth of the 25 richest Americans collectively jumped by \$401 billion from 2014 to 2018. They paid \$13.6 billion in federal income taxes over those years — equal to just 3.4% of the increase in their wealth.

Chuck Marr, a senior director at the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, suggested that Biden's proposals, which face fierce opposition from Republicans in Congress

and from businesses, are "modest" given how much the wealthy have benefited in recent years and how comparatively little tax many of them pay.

"It always seems like the solutions are cast as radical when there's less focus on the current situation being radical," Marr said.

Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, among others, have proposed taxing the wealth of the richest Americans, not just their income.

On Tuesday, Warren tweeted in response to the ProPublica report: "Our tax system is rigged for billionaires who don't make their fortunes through income, like working families do. The evidence is abundantly clear: it is time for a #WealthTax in America to make the ultra-rich finally pay their fair share." Gabriel Zucman, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, who is a leading expert on financial inequality, says there are three ways to ensure that the wealthy pay more: Impose a direct tax on their wealth like the one Warren has proposed; tax the gains in their wealth, whether or not they cash in and realize a gain; or raise taxes on corporate profits.

ProPublica's data "reveals that the country's wealthi-

est, who have profited immensely during the pandemic, have not been paying their fair share of taxes," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who leads the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, said at the start of a hearing Tuesday on the IRS' budget with Commissioner Charles Rettig.

Wyden has proposed legislation that would tighten enforcement of tax collection against wealthy individuals and corporations that use artifices and loopholes to skirt paying taxes. It also would eliminate the ability of high earners to defer paying taxes on capital gains until they are realized, so that wealth would be taxed the same way as wages.

For his part, Rettig said that the IRS is investigating the leak of the tax data to ProPublica and that any violations of law would be prosecuted. (ProPublica reported that it doesn't know the identity of the source who provided the data.)

"We will find out about the ProPublica article," Rettig said. "We have turned it over to the appropriate investigators, both external and internal."

Now controlling the White House and Congress, Democrats are focusing on the tax gap — the hundreds of billions of dollars' difference between what Americans owe the government in taxes and what they pay — and its connection to economic inequality. The top 10% of earners have accounted for most of that gap, experts say, by underreporting their liabilities, intentionally or not, as tax avoidance or as outright evasion.

The tax gap is under a spotlight as a potential source for recouping some revenue to help pay for Biden's proposed spending on infrastructure, families and education. Democrats have been pushing the IRS to invigorate its enforcement of tax collection and make it fairer, by pursuing the big corporations and wealthy individuals who manage to game the system. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Orchestra

1 Neeson of members

"Taken" 45 Shoulder

5 Block- muscles

heads 46 Volcano

10 Make up shape

lines

12 Incline

13 Light

wood

14 Scout's

rider

15 Cry of

discovery

16 Weight-

lifter's

aide

18 Cad

20 "Roses

— red"

21 Resting

on

23 Homer's

neighbor

24 Eat in

style

26 Map line

28 Marsh

29 Artless

person

31 Drama

division

32 Noted

Hogwarts

student

36 Desk item

39 Hoppy

brew

40 "See ya!"

41 Restaurant

unit

43 DVR

option

R	E	G	A	I	N	P	L	U	M
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Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Toil away

2 Sun

Valley

setting

3 Portion

out

4 Sue

Grafton's

"— for

Malice"

5 Regarding

6 Piggy

bank part

7 Guitar

great

Carlos

8 Came in

9 Put away

11 We count

in it

17 Old

hand

19 Sandy

color

22 Before

24 Affirm

25 All things

considered

27 Many a

time

28 Legendary

30 Clumsy

one

33 Off limits

34 TV talk

star

35 Oscar

winner

Wither-

spoon

37 Try out

38 "— bien!"

42 Jackson 5

hit

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43					44				
45						46			

6-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

B G I D I R L S J D I B G O Q J Q I

P O H B J N X D Q O N J J C O Q K

B G I P J D A K R L U X A A J U T I J T A I

D X Q Q R Q F O N J X B P R B G A R B

S O B V G I L — D O H N D O K N X D H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF THERE MUST BE TROUBLE, LET IT BE IN MY DAY, THAT MY CHILD MAY HAVE PEACE. THOMAS PAINE

EXPLAINER: Just how vulnerable is the internet?



This file photo shows an LED-illuminated wireless router in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By FRANK BAJAK and MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writers

BOSTON (AP) — An outage at a little-known firm

that speeds up access to websites knocked a lot of top internet destinations offline on Tuesday, disrupting business and leisure for untold millions globally. The problem was quickly resolved. The company, Fastly, blamed a configuration error in its technology.

But the incident Fastly's traffic dropped 75% for about an hour just as the U.S. East Coast was beginning to stir raises questions about how vulnerable the global internet is to more serious disruption.

WHAT'S A FASTLY? WHY DID ITS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS LEAD TO SO MANY OUTAGES?

San Francisco-based Fastly isn't a household name, but its "edge server" computing technology is used by many of the world's most popular websites, such as The New York Times, Shopify, the Guardian, Ticketmaster, Pinterest, Etsy, Wayfair and Stripe. The British government is among its clients. The company provides what's called a content delivery network — an arrangement that allows customer websites to store data such as images and videos on various mirror servers across 26 countries

so that the data is closer to users, and thus shows up faster. Many of Fastly's customers are news sites that use its technology to update their websites with breaking news. BuzzFeed, for example, used Fastly to cut the time its users took to reach the site by half. Fastly had \$290.9 million in revenues last year.

WAS THERE ANY BACKUP? COULD OTHER COMPANIES HAVE STEPPED IN IF THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN MORE SEVERE?

Customers rely on Fastly and its rivals to host and protect their website data from denial-of-service attacks and disruption from spikes in traffic. Had this outage been more serious, customers could have moved to competitors such as Cloudflare or Akamai. But that's not simple; many businesses would have had to scramble and might have suffered losses.

"You can't switch quickly to another service unless you had it set up ahead of time," said Doug Madory, an internet infrastructure expert with the traffic-measuring company Kentik. "If Fastly were down for a day, that would be pretty bad." Even if they do have an alternative provider, engineering a smooth switchover from one to another is not for the faint of heart, said Ben April, chief techni-

cal officer of Farsight Security.

Madory and other experts said Fastly and its competitors spend heavily and devote major engineering resources to reducing the possibilities of such outages and ensuring they can recover as quickly as Fastly did on Tuesday.

Such outages are not new but not at all common. "There may be years between when a company has an outage like this," Madory added.

"I think we are going to have these very rare but probably impactful short outages for the foreseeable future."

ARE OTHER PARTS OF THE INTERNET SIMILARLY VULNERABLE?

Like the content distribution network world, cloud computing when computing services are entrusted to a remote provider is dominated by just a few major players led by Amazon Web Services, Google and Microsoft. Amazon, the biggest cloud provider, periodically has brief outages, which are a big deal for customers.

"And if it became a major outage of, say, more than six, eight hours but days it could put companies out of business," said Josh Chessman, an analyst with the tech market researcher Gartner Inc. □

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San Nicolas

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Paradera Tel. 588 6638

San Nicolas:

Aloe Tel. 584 4606

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Q&A: Ellen Burstyn on her acting life, and not retiring



Ellen Burstyn poses for a portrait in the Paul Newman Library of the Actors Studio in New York on Sept. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — That Ellen Burstyn plays a woman who recoils at the very mention of a retirement community in the upcoming film “Queen Bees” is extremely appropriate. Rarely has an actor been as good for as long as Burstyn has. She is still, at 88, tireless, her vitality almost preternaturally undiminished. As intense as her early career was — Lee Strasberg’s *The Actors Studio* in the late 1960s followed by ‘70s classics like “*The Last Picture Show*,” “*The Exorcist*” and “*Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore*” — her later years have been no less probing or challenging — “*Requiem for Dream*,” “*Interstel-*

lar,” last year’s “*Pieces of a Woman*.” She has the awards to show for it. A six-time Oscar nominee and one-time winner (for “*Alice*,” a movie she might have directed until she picked a young filmmaker, Martin Scorsese, to do so instead), she has a Tony and two Emmys, too. And while “*Queen Bees*,” in theaters Friday, is more of fun diversion, Burstyn remains a magnificent and fierce screen presence. She plays a proudly independent senior temporarily staying at a retirement community that turns out to be as rife with comical cliques and romantic possibility as “*Mean Girls*.” The cast includes James Caan, Ann-Margret, Jane Curtin, Loretta Devine and Christopher Lloyd.

Burstyn’s own retirement plans aren’t just unmade. They’re unfathomable. When she turned 80, she decided to move from Rockland County, up the Hudson, into the city. “Time for a little action,” she explained in a recent interview by phone.

She has since lived in an apartment overlooking Central Park, which she strolls in daily. “It’s my garden,” she says. During the pandemic, Burstyn has mostly laid low, spending time with friends in the Catskills and at a condo on the Connecticut waterfront.

“Otherwise, I’ve been in the city. I’ve been in my apartment,” says Burstyn. “I am absolutely a cooped-up person ready to hit the road again.”

Remarks have been slightly edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What do you attribute your longevity to?

Burstyn: I must have some good genes. I was sort of wild in my 20s and 30s. When I got into my 40s, I started dropping bad habits slowly. First hard liquor went, then wine went, exercise began, changing my diet and giving up meat. Marijuana was also part of the mix. I just gave it up all up. I think it really paid off.

AP: I imagine your “*Queen Bees*” character wasn’t a far journey since her at-

titude about retirement aligns with yours.

Burstyn: I can’t picture my retirement. (laughs) I can’t picture wanting to retire. The only thing I can picture is if some day I’m being retired because I don’t get work. But volunteering to retire? I can’t picture that.

AP: What drew you to the movie?

Burstyn: I love it when the movie industry shows women past 60 still having interest in life and not retiring. I read so many scripts from the time I was 50 that were all about: Should we put grandma in the nursing home? And how do we tell her? It was always like putting her out to pasture. This is quite different. It happens in a retirement home but there’s lots of life going on in there, a lot of mating. So I liked it. It’s a story about, let’s say, elderly lusty people.

AP: You’ve lived through a patriarchal era in Hollywood. Do you ever wonder how your career and life might have been different without those roadblocks?

Burstyn: I’ve done a lot of

studying about the patriarchy, which has been in effect for thousands of years. Only now is it really being challenged. I think that’s what’s so scary to a lot of fellas, that they’re not going to know how to function if they’re sharing the catbird seat with a woman. I think it affects our politics. I think what the country is going through right now is a fear, for some people, that if the white man is not in power that that would be a bad thing. I don’t share in that opinion. I think we have been slowly in my lifetime opening up the throne to the other sex and the other color and the other religion — the other. I don’t think about how my life had been different. I’m just glad I was able to make some films like “*Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore*” that’s really about that, and affected it in some way.

AP: In your memoir, “*Lessons in Becoming*,” you wrote about how your third husband, after separating, broke into your home and raped you. It’s his name you have. Do you wish you didn’t?

Burstyn: (Laughs) Well, I try not spend time on wishing for anything that I can’t change.

That’s my name, however I came to it. It surprised me, but that’s what I got. But I know I was very honest as I wrote that book. Every time I came to a new chapter in my life, I’d go, “Well, I can’t write about that.” Finally, I said: Honey, if you’re going to tell the story, tell the story.

AP: You could tell in that book you view your life as an ever-ongoing spiritual journey. Where would you put yourself on that journey now?

Burstyn: The way I understand life is that you come on Earth to learn something spiritually, and everything that happens is a spiritual lesson if you view it that way. I’m still on the path of trying to be as honest and sensitive and open and kind as I can possibly be. So I hope I’m growing that way. □



Sakkari tops 2020 French champ Swiatek; 4 in 1st Slam SFs

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — When one last forehand from defending champion Iga Swiatek landed wide in the French Open quarterfinals, Maria Sakkari crouched on Court Philippe Chatrier and bowed her head, relishing the moment.

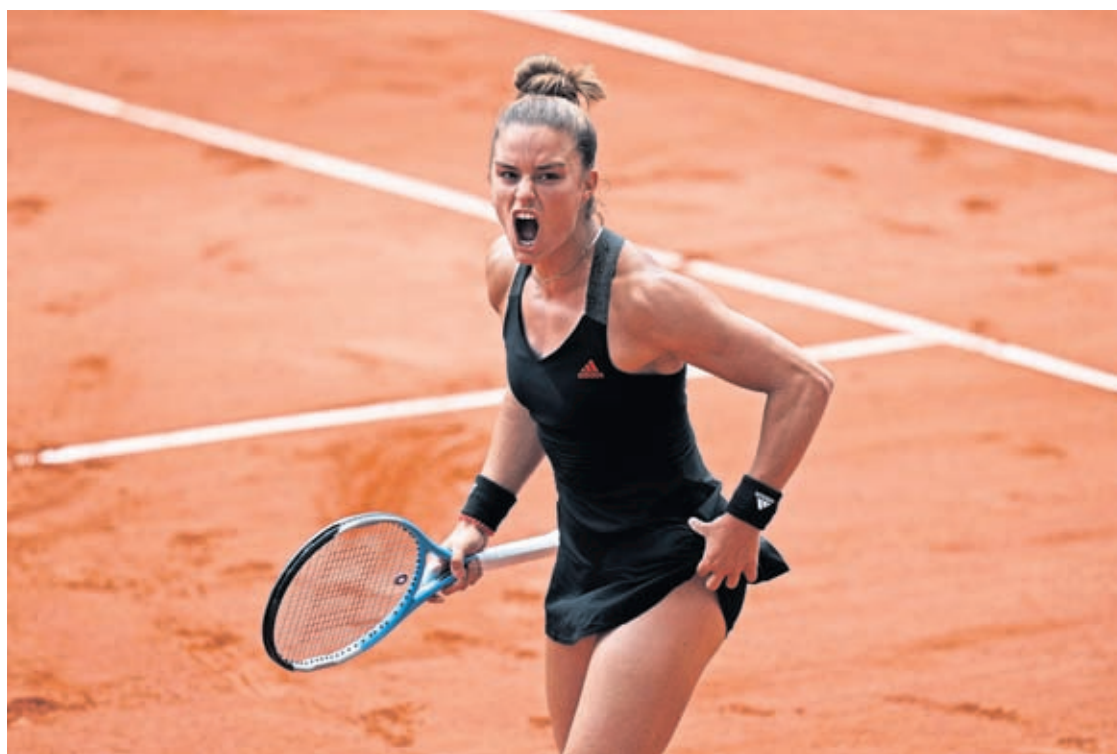
Sakkari is still two wins away from lifting the trophy, but Wednesday's victory means she's already in new territory — just like the other three women left in the draw.

Sakkari ended Swiatek's 11-match and 22-set winning streaks at Roland Garros by beating her 6-4, 6-4 Wednesday to guarantee that there will be a first-time Grand Slam champion when the tournament ends.

On Thursday, the 17th-seeded Sakkari plays unseeded Barbora Krejckikova in the semifinals, and No. 31 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova faces unseeded Tamara Zidansek. All four are making their Slam semifinal debuts. "We are four very good players," Sakkari said. "Players that can win a title, for sure."

Krejckikova advanced Wednesday by eliminating 17-year-old Coco Gauff 7-6 (6), 6-3.

This is only the second time in the professional era that there has been four first-time semifinalists at any major tournament, according to the WTA. It also hap-



Maria Sakkari of Greece reacts as she plays Poland's Iga Swiatek during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Wednesday, June 9, 2021 in Paris.

pened at the 1978 Australian Open.

In the men's quarterfinals, 13-time champion Rafael Nadal's streak of sets won at Roland Garros ended at 36 but he quickly recovered to defeat Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0. Nadal's semifinal foe will be Novak Djokovic or Matteo Berrettini.

Sakkari, who can become Greece's first Grand Slam singles champion, and Krejckikova, who is from the Czech Republic, are both 25. Each has won only one tour-level title. Neither had been past the fourth round at a major until now.

Sakkari lost her first seven

third-round Slam matches, which raised some doubts that have since been erased.

"I thought about it a lot of times — that maybe that was my ceiling, and I could not get any higher in the rankings, playing better in tournaments," she said. "But this year I proved (to) myself that I'm actually playing really good."

Both Sakkari and Krejckikova dealt with early deficits Wednesday.

Swiatek, a 20-year-old from Poland who has looked untouchable on clay, jumped out to a 2-0 lead. But then Sakkari took over, winning eight of 10 games. When

Sakkari smacked a backhand winner down the line to close a 15-stroke point that claimed the first set, she leaned over and punched the air with her right fist.

That ended Swiatek's set streak at Roland Garros, which dated to the beginning of last year's tournament, when she dropped only 28 games in all. She'd only lost 20 games this year through four matches.

But Sakkari used clean strokes — accumulating 26 winners, nine more than her opponent — and a strategy of serving to Swiatek's forehand to gain control. "Obviously I know I can play

better than today," Swiatek said. "Everybody has seen that."

Down 2-0 in the second set, Swiatek took a medical timeout and left the court with a trainer, returning with her upper right leg taped. During the break, Sakkari tried to stay warm by hopping and skipping side-to-side behind the baseline and did not lose a beat when play resumed.

Swiatek said her injury was not serious but did bother her before and during the match.

"I couldn't even sleep well yesterday. I slept, like, few hours," she said. "I think I was feeling everything twice as much as I should. It was hard to rationally just see what's going on."

In the day's first quarterfinal, Gauff led 3-0 at the outset, then 5-3, and held a total of five set points in the opener, but failed to convert any. Krejckikova grabbed that set by taking the last four points of the tiebreaker and reeled off 15 consecutive points during one stretch en route to a 5-0 edge in the second set. Closing out the most important victory of her singles career was not easy, though: Krejckikova needed six match points to do it. Krejckikova has won two Grand Slam doubles titles with Katerina Siniakova — and they're into the semifinals in Paris — but is playing in only her fifth major tournament in singles. □

Heat's Riley fined \$25,000 for remarks about a LeBron return

NEW YORK (AP) — Miami Heat President Pat Riley was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for being too clear that he'd eagerly welcome a reunion with LeBron James.

The league said Riley violated its anti-tampering rule with his remarks during an interview Friday on Dan Le Batard's radio show.

Riley said he would "leave the key under the doormat" if James called and said he

wanted to return to Miami. James led the Heat to two NBA titles and four straight appearances in the finals before returning to Cleveland in 2014.

Riley is the second executive to be fined in three days for tampering. The NBA penalized Philadelphia's Daryl Morey and the team \$75,000 apiece on Monday for a tweet about Stephen Curry. □



In this Dec. 14, 2020, file photo, Miami Heat president Pat Riley watches during the first half of the team's preseason NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in Miami.

Associated Press

Koepka says rivalry with DeChambeau good for growing golf



Brooks Koepka is shown after a birdie on the 13th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course in Kiawah Island, S.C., in this Thursday, May 20, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

By **PETE IACOBELLI**
AP Sports Writer

RIDGELAND, S.C. (AP) — Brooks Koepka insists his ongoing rivalry with fellow major champion Bryson DeChambeau is good for golf.

Koepka is at the inaugural Palmetto Championship this week, his first event since a video interview outtake at the PGA Championship last month showed the four-time major champ rolling his eyes as DeChambeau walked behind him. The clip was not supposed to be shown, yet it was posted on social media and picked up more than 10 million views before it was removed.

To Koepka, the video put the attention squarely on golf for a social media-savvy generation essential for the game's growth.

"I get the traditionalists who don't agree with it. I understand that, but I think to grow the game you've got to reach out to the younger generation," he said Wednesday. "I don't want to say that's what this is, but it's reaching out to a whole bunch of people. It's getting golf in front of people. I think it's good for the game."

And it didn't end at the PGA Championship.

After DeChambeau heard heckles of "Brooksie" at the Memorial last week and a few fans were removed from the Muirfield Village site, Koepka put up a promo video offering free beer from his sponsor to those ejected.

he felt DeChambeau was being loud as he walked past the interview site at the Ocean Course last month.

DeChambeau, who is not playing this week, didn't talk directly to Koepka as he strode past. "He was saying something about how he hit a perfect shot and it shouldn't have been there," Koepka recalled. "It was just very, very loud."

"I just lost train of thought," he continued, "which I think was pretty obvious."

When asked if tour officials have talked to him about the feud, Koepka said he regularly speaks with the PGA Tour about everything happening in golf.

Expect things to heat up once more when defending U.S. Open champ De-

Chambeau and Koepka, who won that major in 2017 and 2018, play in this year's event next week at Torrey Pines.

Things to watch for at the PGA Tour's first Palmetto Championship:

HERE AGAIN?

The PGA Tour has seen a lot of South Carolina in the past three months. Usually, it makes one stop a year in the Palmetto State at the RBC Heritage on Hilton Head Island that's traditionally played the week after the Masters.

This year, the pros followed that up at the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island outside of Charleston for the PGA Championship last month.

Now, the tour is back again

for the inaugural Palmetto Championship at the Congaree Golf Club.

World No. 1 and South Carolina native Dustin Johnson headlines the field and is happy for another stop in his home state.

"I obviously don't get to play a whole lot in South Carolina, other than Hilton Head every year, but this year's been kind of cool getting to play so many events in South Carolina," he said.

Johnson hopes for a better outcome here than he's had the other two times he's teed it up in the Palmetto State.

He tied for 13th at the RBC Heritage in April and missed the cut at the PGA Championship three weeks ago. □

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